

NEBRASKAlander Award.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. Chair, if it is permissible with you, I would like to be able to open on 315, 316, 317 and 318 simultaneously, if no one has an objection to that. These are all the NEBRASKAland Foundation Awards, and I could just speak once on all of them and save a little time, if that's appropriate.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I see no objections.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each year, for Statehood Day, the NEBRASKAland Foundation gives awards. There's the NEBRASKAlander Award, the Sower Award, the Wagon Master Award, and the Trailblazer Award. The NEBRASKAlander Award is the highest honor given at the statehood dinner, it's awarded only in even-numbered years to a Nebraskan who has distinguished him or herself in service and recognition to our state's social, historical, cultural or economic well-being. In non...odd-numbered years it is given to a former Nebraskan who has brought honor and distinction to our state. The Sower Award, the foundation and state's highest award, is presented to American citizens who have contributed genuinely to the benefit of mankind and to the state and the nation. Wagon Master Award is given by the foundation to recognize citizens for their leadership in causes which benefit the state or the nation. The Trailblazer Award is given by the foundation to recognize citizens for their special efforts. The Trailblazer Award, this year, is given to the Abel family. George Abel founded Abel Construction and was a leading businessman in our state. Hazel Abel was the widow of George P. Hazel succeeded him as company president in 1937, and was the first Nebraska woman and the third female American ever elected by popular vote to the United States Senate. The Wagon Master Award is given to Daniel W. Gardner. Daniel Gardner was a former...was a native of New York, came to Nebraska in 1952, became a leading Nebraska businessman, joining together with Milton Waldbaum in the egg and egg products industry. He was the CEO of the Michael Foods Company which, in 1990, purchased the Waldbaum Company. Paul Henson is receiving the Sower Award. Paul is a native Nebraskan, grew up on a dairy farm near Lincoln, Nebraska, was involved in the telemarketing industry; 1986, United Telecom